



#### ONTARIO POWER AUTHORITY

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# **Update of Renewable Resource and Related Transmission Developments in Northwestern ON**

Presentation at the 2010 Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference Bob Chow – Director, Transmission Integration, OPA

#### **Presentation Outline**

- Update of renewable resource development, including the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) Program
- Reinforcement of the electricity supply to the Northwest
- Reinforcement of electricity supply within the Northwest, including the Pickle Lake area



## **Update of Renewable Resource Development** in Ontario

### Electricity Sector Initiatives:

- Use electricity efficiently
- Phase out coal-fired generation
- Increase the contribution of renewable resources

#### In the Northwest:

- Over 50 MW of Demand Response have been procured as part of the conservation program
- Coal-fired generation will be phased out at Atikokan and Thunder Bay generating stations by the end of 2014
- About 45 MW of new hydroelectric supply has come into service since 2005 (Umbata Falls, Lac Seul and existing generating station upgrades)

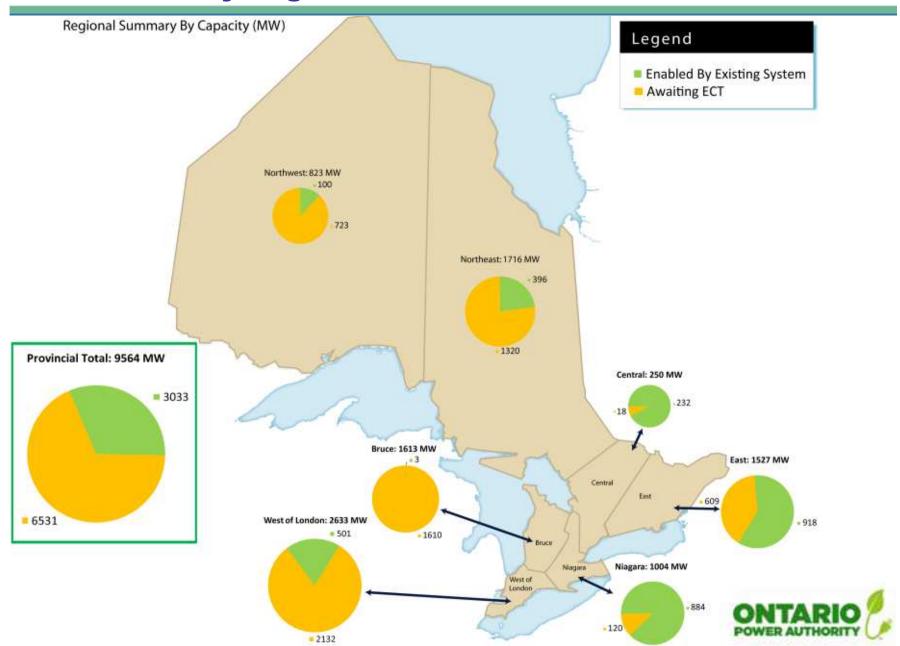


#### **The FIT Program in Ontario**

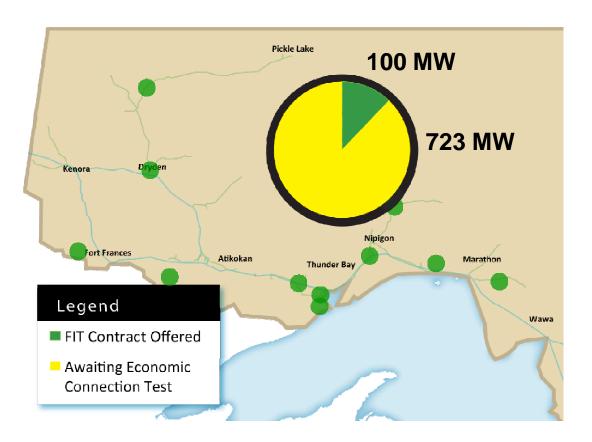
- The cornerstone of the Green Energy and Economy Act is the FIT Program:
  - a "standard offer" type of procurement for renewable resources; uncapped; self-nominating
  - fixed prices; guaranteed long-term contracts with standard terms and conditions
  - A "right-to-connect" but subject to economic, technical and other requirements
  - The FIT rules and processes have been well stakeholdered and communicated; they are posted on the OPA website
- The FIT Program was launched on October 1, 2009



## **Map of Launch Period and Korean Consortium Phase 1 Renewables by Region**



#### **FIT Launch Period Renewable Generation**



	Contract Offer (MW)	Awaiting ECT (MW)
Wind	17	573
Water	42	76
Solar	41	32
Bio	0	42
Total	100	723



### **Northwest Transmission System**



# Maintaining Reliability in the Northwest Following Coal Phase Out

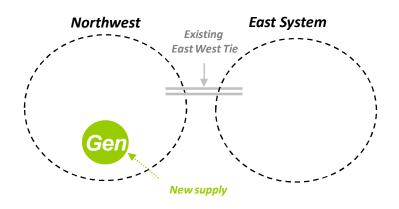
- Atikokan and Thunder Bay generating stations are important sources of supply in the Northwest
  - about one-third of the total supply capacity
  - dispatchable supply; voltage support; operational flexibility
- Coal-fired generation will be phased out at these stations by the end of 2014
- OPA is developing plans to maintain reliable supply following the phase out of coal-fired generation and considering factors such as:
  - Recent demand reductions (1,150 MW to 800 MW)
  - Hydro variability
  - Conversion of Atikokan GS to biomass operation
  - Limited transmission capability



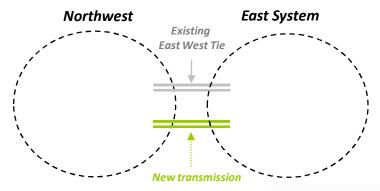
### **Two Supply Options Being Considered**

- 1. Firm dispatchable generation (e.g. gas-fired) located in the Northwest
- 2. East-West Tie transmission reinforcement
  - Construction of new 230 kV transmission line from Wawa through
    Marathon to Lakehead TS in the Thunder Bay area, approximately
    400km in length
  - Provides increased transfer capability to supply Northwest from the Northeast

Additional supply located in the Northwest



Transmission reinforcement to the Northwest



#### **Comparison of the Two Options**

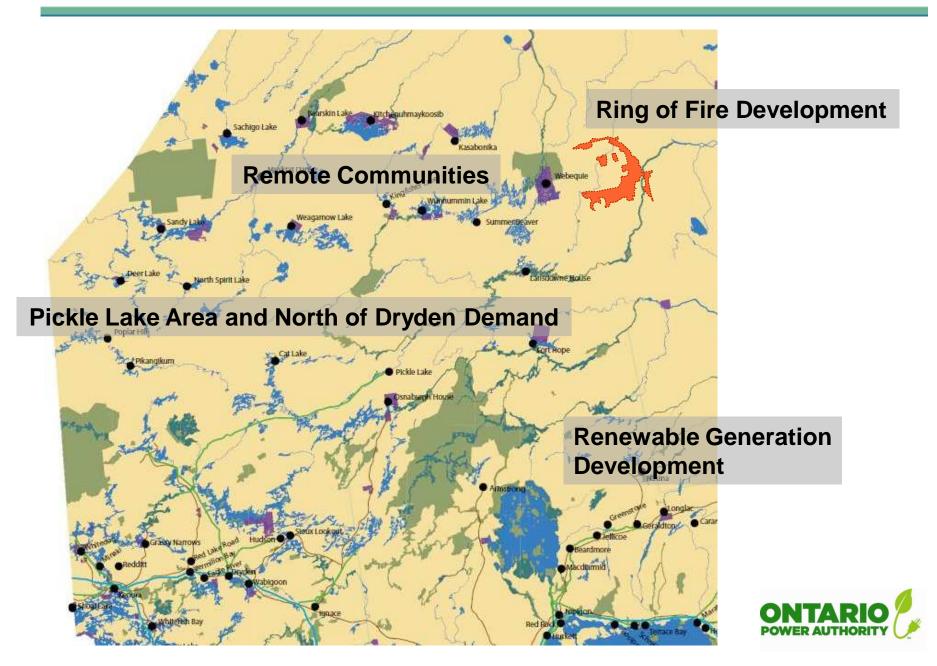
- Costs for the two options are similar
- East-West Tie transmission expansion provides a number of additional benefits:
  - Reduces congestion
  - Reduces losses
  - Enables longer term renewable generation
  - Provides greater operational flexibility
- Work continues to evaluate the two options



#### **Regional Developments in the Northwest**

- Three regional developments in the Northwest require transmission expansion consideration
  - 1. Demand growth in the Pickle Lake area and area north of Dryden
  - 2. Opportunity to connect remote communities
  - 3. Renewable generation development at Little Jackfish and along the shore of Lake Nipigon
- Additionally, in the longer term, mining development in the Ring of Fire
  - At this time there are uncertainties around the timing and magnitude of this development
  - Options to meet Ring of Fire's electricity needs will be developed and are not expected to be impacted by near-term transmission initiatives

### **Supply Within the Northwest**



## Two Transmission Options to Address Developments in the Northwest

- 1. "Integrated" Option: Nipigon to Little Jackfish to Pickle Lake
- 2. "Independent" Option: Nipigon to Little Jackfish and Ignace (or other termination) to Pickle Lake
- The choice between these two options is impacted by the timing of the developments

#### **Integrated Option**



#### **Independent Option**



